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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development

Argentina:* draft resolution

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004, 60/210 of 22 December 2005, 62/206 of 19 December 2007 and 64/217 of 21 December 2009, and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,[1]

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[5] the 2005 World Summit[6] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation are integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

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Reaffirming further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective in and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases and stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

Recalling the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development[7] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[8] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[9] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[10] and the outcomes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries[11] and the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs,[12]

Welcoming the full operationalization of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on 1 January 2011,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Recognizing that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health-care information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of women's full enjoyment of human rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including opportunities for education and for economic and political empowerment,

Reaffirming the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015, and reaffirming that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communications technology and other new technologies, and fulfilment of the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels, are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication

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[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[9] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[10] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

[12] See resolution 63/1.

and to allow women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Reaffirming also the significant contributions that women make to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Expressing deep concern over the disproportionate negative impact on women of the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the ongoing world financial and economic crisis, the volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms for the advancement and empowerment of women,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Recognizing that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;[13]

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[4]

3. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication and the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to link policies on economic and social development to ensure that all people, including those in poor and vulnerable groups, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance

[13] A/66/219.

with the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[7] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development;[9]

5. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to accelerate their efforts, and provide adequate resources, to increase the voice and full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including through eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, to build women's capacity as agents of change and to empower them to participate actively and effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development, poverty eradication and environmental policies, strategies and programmes;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to increase, as appropriate, the participation of civil society, including women's organizations, in Government decision-making in national development policy areas;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the adoption by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of appropriate measures to identify and address the negative impacts of the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the ongoing world financial and economic crisis, the volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by multiple climate-change crises, on women and girls, and of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of the creation by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all areas of life for the effective integration of women in development, and of their undertaking and disseminating a gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural reform, taxation, investments, including foreign direct investment, and all relevant sectors of the economy;

9. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and also to strengthen the mechanisms needed to measure effectively the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

10. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development strategies, to ensure alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies, and to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

11. *Encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in formulating national development strategies, including strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen capacities for gender mainstreaming by allocating adequate financial and human resources within line ministries, establishing and/or strengthening dedicated gender equality and empowerment of women, and providing capacity development for technical staff, and developing tools and guidelines;

13. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement legislation and policies to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, including through increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as part-time work and the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers, to provide care facilities for children and other dependants, and to ensure that both women and men have access to maternity or paternity, parental and other forms of leave and are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

14. *Expresses deep concern* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls, reiterates the need to further intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and that women's poverty and lack of political, social and economic empowerment, as well as their marginalization, may result from their exclusion from social policies for and the benefits of sustainable development and can place them at increased risk of violence;

15. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypic attitudes towards gender equality at work and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

16. *Urges* Governments to develop and adequately resource active labour-market policies on full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas;

17. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of, and ensure decent work conditions for, domestic workers, including migrant women, in relation to, inter alia, working hours, conditions and wages, access to health-care services and other social and economic benefits;

18. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and/or review and to fully implement gender-sensitive legislation and policies that reduce, through specifically targeted measures, horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and gender-based wage gaps;

19. *Urges* all Member States to undertake a gender analysis of national labour laws and standards and to establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including for transnational corporations, with particular attention to export-processing zones, building in this regard on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women[14] and conventions of the International Labour Organization;

20. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by giving them equal access to financial instruments on affordable terms, providing them with training and advisory services in business, administration, and information and communications technology, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation on advisory boards and in other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by financial institutions;

21. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to all types of financial services and products, including bank loans, bank accounts, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, regardless of their economic and social status, to support women's access to legal assistance and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

22. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

23. *Urges* Governments to ensure that microfinance programmes focus on developing savings products that are safe, convenient and accessible to women and support women's efforts to retain control over their savings;

24. *Urges* all Governments to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of education and ensure their equal access to all levels of education;

25. *Urges* Member States to adopt and review legislation and policies to ensure women's equal access to and control over land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, land reform programmes and land markets, and to take measures to implement those laws and policies;

26. *Urges* Governments to take measures to facilitate equitable access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system more responsive to gender equality issues, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women's groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns to draw attention to the need for women's equal rights to land and property;

27. *Recognizes* the need to empower women, particularly poor women, economically and politically, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of women and

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship;

28. *Also recognizes* the role of agriculture in development, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that women's critical role in food security is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to the food crisis;

29. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, and their traditional knowledge, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty;

30. *Expresses its concern* at the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV and AIDS pandemic and the fact that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by HIV and AIDS, that they are more easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they have become more vulnerable to violence, stigmatization and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of HIV and AIDS, and taking into account that the 2010 deadline was not met, calls upon Governments and the international community to intensify efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support and of having halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015;

31. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development,[15] by integrating this goal into strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

32. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving child and maternal health, and in this context calls upon States to renew their commitment to preventing and eliminating child and maternal mortality and morbidity;

33. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets, and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially boost resources available to push forward the international development agenda;

34. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries to integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

35. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the necessary financial

[15] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

resources to assist Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

36. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

37. *Stresses* the importance of improving and systematizing the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, and of developing gender-sensitive indicators to support policymaking and national systems for monitoring and reporting on progress and impact, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

38. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this domain, in accordance with national development strategies, and calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to work with United Nations country teams in helping Member States, at their request, to integrate a gender perspective into national development policies and strategies, in accordance with their national priorities;

39. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational mandates, to further improve their institutional accountability mechanisms and to include intergovernmentally agreed gender-equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;

41. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues" the sub-item entitled "Women in development".